



BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

The Book Factory

By EDWARD ANTHONY.
The Poetical Blacksmith.

M. E. BUCKLEY, Chicago's horseshoe poet, has returned from the tournament of the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, held at Hamline, Minn., during the Minnesota State Fair. . . . For years Buckley, while he shod horses, studied literature and developed in time no mean poetic ability. —*News item.*

I love all kinds of plants and trees,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
The same applies to honey bees,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
I'm fond of everything that grows,
I frequently go daisy picking
(Though some prefer to pluck the rose).
Hi, Dobbin, there! You stop your kicking!
I love the chickens in the yard,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
And eggs that aren't boiled too hard,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
I like a cow that's fat and sleek
(They irritate me when they're skinny).
I love a lofty mountain peak—
Quit moving, nag! And don't you whinny!
The sky's a pretty blue to-day,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
I do not like it when it's gray,
Spink! spink! spink! spink!
I'm fond of little brooks and things,
Where one may spend the morning fishing,
And of the robin when he sings.
Hey, stop that horse's tail from swishing!

We are going to talk about books to-day. We see no reason why a book column should not contain some information on books.

We like books in a way. In fact, recently we asked the publishers to send us a few. It can do no one harm to read a book occasionally. We are a reader of *The New Republic* and know nearly everything, and yet even we have something to gain by reading a book once in a while. For instance, if we hadn't read Fernand J. Mercet's "The Bolshevism of Sex" (Higher Thought Publishing Company) we wouldn't know that there is such a word as "imprescriptible." It is the imprescriptible duty of each and every one of us to read and learn.

So we've been doing some reading.

We had to, that we might keep in right with the publishers. Recently, as we just said, we asked 'em to send us a few books. Let no one say the publishers are stingy. You ought to see our room; it looks like a bookshop. We've received everything except the Fortune Publishing Company's "Were You Born in October?" and Ferdinand K. Flick's book of poems, "Mother Nature."

Of the 476 books we have read during the last month the three best are Knut Hamsun's "Pan" (Knopf), Anna Wickham's "The Contemplative Quarry" (Harcourt) and Dr. Josephine Jackson's and Helen Salisbury's "Outwitting Our Nerves" (Century). We don't know what the reviewers have

been saying about these books—the only reviews we read are those of our good friend Xavier Lyndon, the bald critic of The West Bronx, and Xavier didn't review those books—but we are pretty sure they liked 'em. If there is a critic who didn't and our readers will furnish his name and address we will see that he is expelled from the Reviewers' Union. We have something on the president of that organization and he will do anything we say.

We don't know why we like "Outwitting Our Nerves." We oughtn't to. It exposes us as a faker. It laughs at all of our pet symptoms. It ridicules our insomnia. It refuses to take our favorite aches and pains seriously. We don't like this. A year or so ago we read a book (we've forgotten the title) which sought to prove that most of the great geniuses of the past have been sickly guys, and we found consolation in the thought that the pains that regularly shoot through us might be an indication that we are a genius. "Outwitting Our Nerves" contends that we are a bluffer, that as soon as we stop coddling ourself like a king we'll be all right again—and we are afraid the book is right.

It is disturbing to think that we no longer have cause to think we are a genius. But we find comfort in the thought that it is better to be a healthy boob than a sick genius.

"Outwitting Our Nerves" is that rare thing, a sound, scientific work chattily written.

As for Hamsun's "Pan," we think it the most thrillingly poetic yarn we have read since Hudson's "Green Mansions." It is the kind of story A. E. Housman would write if that great poet were a novelist.

Among other things, we are grateful to Hamsun for giving his hero, *Lieut. Glahn*, a grass eating dog. We have been insisting for months that our dog Sambo eat watermelon. Nobody believes us. Now that Hamsun has established that dogs eat grass we ought to be believed. Any sensible dog would as soon eat watermelon as grass.

Here we have Anna Wickham's "The Contemplative Quarry," the best book of poems to come out of England in a long time. There is an introduction by Louis Untermeyer. Louis oughtn't to be permitted to write introductions to books of verses. He picks out the best things to quote, and the reviewer who likes the same things best and quotes 'em also is suffused with the guilty feeling; he has the uncomfortable thought that he is imitating.

We wish Louis weren't so good a critic. It would be good fun to quarrel with him about something.

But hold! We are going to quarrel with him. We don't like such sentences as: "Mrs. Wickham's spirit burns and twists in the flame of her passionate appeal." That is so strenuous an effort to say something strong that it sounds weak to us. We'll fight this out with Louis some day and report to you.

We have now praised three books. It is time we knocked something. What shall we knock? Let's see. Here is Arthur Gutterman's "A Ballad Maker's Pack" (Harper). We can't knock that. It is too good. By the way, why isn't Gutterman's "Betel Nuts" (Paul Elder) better known? If we lost our copy we'd commit suicide. Here is a chance for some dissatisfied reader to get rid of us by stealing it.

We must find something to knock. Every good critic knocks. Here we have Hall Caine's "The Master of Man" (Lippincott). It is safe to knock Hall Caine. Everybody does it. But it wouldn't be fair. The book uplifted us. Honest! We have the feeling that we have done something for our soul.

Hall Caine is the Billy Sunday of novelists. He uses strong language. He is frank with his characters. He tells 'em what he thinks of 'em. One he calls a "poop," another a "numskull" and still another a "booby." We hope the book will not be suppressed. An author sometimes has to use strong language to get his message across.

THE SIEVE OR REVELATIONS OF THE MAN MILL: BEING THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICAN IMMIGRATION—By Feri Felix Weiss. Page Company.

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Books of the Week

Fiction.

MARTIN CONISBY'S VENGEANCE—By Jeffrey Farnol. Little-Brown.
GHITZA AND OTHER ROMANCES OF GYPSY BLOOD—By Konrad Bercovici. Boni & Liveright.
THE LARK—By Dana Burnett. Little-Brown.
THE POISONER—By Gerald Cumberland. Brentano's.
A MENDER OF IMAGES—By Norma Lorimer. Brentano's.
THE PEOPLE AGAINST NANCY PRESTON—By John Moroso. Holt.
THE WINGS OF TIME—By Elizabeth Newport Hepburn. Stokes.
THE DAY OF FAITH—By Arthur Somers Roche. Little-Brown.
THE QUELS—By Edna Ferber. Doubleday-Page.
YOUTH TRIUMPHANT—By George Gibbs. Appleton.
CHANCE ENCOUNTERS—By Maxwell Struthers Burt. Scribner's.
VIOLETTES OF MANHATTAN: OUTLINES IN LOCAL COLOR—By Brander Matthews. Scribner's.
THREE GOLDEN DAYS: TANBARK TALES—By William S. Walkley. Revell.
ASHES OF EVIDENCE—By Eric Levison. Bobbs-Merrill.
BEANY, GANGESHANKS AND THE TUB—By Edward Streeter. Putnam.
THE BLOOD OF THE CONQUERORS—By Harvey Ferguson. Knopf.
SUCCESS—By Samuel Hopkins Adams. Houghton-Mifflin.
THE TREE OF LIGHT—By James A. B. Scherer. Crowell.

Animal Stories.

JIM, THE STORY OF A BACKWOODS POLICE DOG; THE SECRET TRAILS: THE BACKWOODSMEN; KINGS IN EXILE; NEIGHBORS UNKNOWN; HOOFF AND CLAW: THE FEET OF THE PURTIVE, AND CHILDREN OF THE WILD—By Major Charles G. D. Roberts. Eight uniform volumes. The Macmillan Company.
NANCY: HER LIFE AND DEATH—By Louis Dodge. Scribner's.

Handbooks.

WHO? WHEN? WHERE? WHAT? Twenty Thousand Facts on Makers of History, Art, Literature, Science and Religion. Compiled by Frank H. Vizetelly. Funk & Wagnall.
MEND YOUR SPEECH—One Thousand Hints on Manners, Their Use and Abuse. By Frank H. Vizetelly. Funk & Wagnall.
PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION: HOW TO MAKE USE OF THEM—By Frank H. Vizetelly. Funk & Wagnall.
PUTNAM'S HANDY LAW BOOK FOR THE LAYMAN—By Albert Sidney Bolles. Putnam.

For Boys and Girls.

IN THE TIGER'S LAIR—By Leo E. Miller. Scribner's.
HOW AND WHY STORIES—By J. C. Branner. Holt.
WONDER-TALES FROM RUSSIA—By Jeremiah Curtin. Little-Brown.
KUTNAR—SON OF PIC—By George Langford. Boni & Liveright.
THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN—By Lebus Mitchell. Little-Brown.
HERO TALES OF IRELAND—By Jeremiah Curtin. Little-Brown.
PEMROSE LORRY, CAMP FIRE GIRL—By Isabel Hornbrook. Little-Brown.
THE WINDY HILL—By Cornelia Melga. Macmillan.
DAYS OF THE DISCOVERERS—By L. Lamorey. Stokes.
PRINCE AND ROVER OF CLOVERFIELD FARM—By Helen Fuller Orton. Stokes.
A POPULAR SCHOOLGIRL—By Angela Brazil. Stokes.
THE PRINCESS OF THE SCHOOL—By Angela Brazil. Stokes.
PICTURE STORIES FOR CHILDREN—By Irene Dodge Eberle. Stokes.
WILD FRIENDS AT HOME—By L. R. Brightwell. Stokes.
GIRLS OF HIGHLAND HALL—By Carol W. Rankin. Holt.
STORIES OF AMERICAN INVENTIONS—By Inez N. McFee. Crowell.

"Loeb Classical Library."

APOLLONORUS: THE LIBRARY. VOLUME I. AND II—With an English Translation by Sir James George Frazer. Putnam.
HERODOTUS: VOLUME II—With an English translation by A. D. Godley. Putnam.

Immigration.

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SAWARD'S ANNUAL: A STANDARD STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE COAL TRADE—By Frederick W. Saward. New York: Saward's Journal.

Verse.

OUT OF MIST—By Florence Kilpatrick Mixer. Boni & Liveright.
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Education.

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Biography and Memoirs.

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